

Governor's Proposed FY23 Budget Adjustments
Appropriations Hearing
HB 5037 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30th, 2023
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Thursday, February 24th, 2022
David Waggnar

Good afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, Senator Miner, Representative France, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is David Waggnar, and I am a registered voter in city of Bridgeport.

I believe that increasing funding for Bridge House (in Bridgeport)—and mental health programs like it—is very important. Bridge House helped me fight social isolation during the pandemic and even before that. During the lockdown, social distancing and masking were taking a toll on me. Once Bridge House closed down, however, I did keep in touch with Bridge House via members of the staff; they did whatever they could to make sure that I still could think of myself as part of the Bridge House family. Even though the house was not open, it was a valuable lifeline to help my mental health. Bridge House and programs like it should be funded more because it has been a great support in the pandemic and will continue to be a valuable support to me—and so many others like me—like it always has.

Thank you.